Criteria for funds to Panchayat bodies

†1480. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria based on which funds are given to Panchayat bodies;

(b) whether population is taken into account and also the census on which it is based; and

(c) whether the views of States are sought and considered on the matter and manner of financial assistance to Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No funds are allocated/released to the Panchayat bodies by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. However, the Ministry of Rural Development have informed us that under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), allocation of resources to the States is made on the basis of the proportion of the rural BPL population in the State to the total BPL population in the country. The allocation of funds at the District level within a State is determined on the basis of the proportion of the rural SC/ST population in the District to the total SC/ST population in the State and inverse of per capita production of agricultural workers in the District. Within the District, resources are distributed amongst the Panchayats on the basis of the proportion of SC/ ST population and also the total population. However, funds allocated to a district are distributed amongst the District Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and Village Panchayats in the ratio of 20:30:50.

(b) The Planning Commission prepares and declares the Official Poverty Estimates for rural areas every 5 years. Based on it, funds under the SGRY are allocated to the States. However, present allocation is based on 1993-94 estimates.

(c) The SGRY aims for generation of additional wage employment and providing thereby social and economic assets and rural infrastructure development. State Governments are consulted from time to time for efficient implementation of the scheme.

Empowerment of common man to play significant role in development works

†1481. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no initiative has been taken to devolve power to common man to enable them to play important role in developmental

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.